

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IGA-02 /072 W

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R 231112Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6446

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONGEN DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 7670

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, LE, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. SAUDI DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AND PETROLEUM AFFAIRS ABDULLAH ALIREZA HAS ASKED WHETHER WE CAN PROVIDE SOME INFORMATION ON LEBANESE ECONOMIC LOSSES AND AID REQUIREMENTS TO ASSIST THE SAG IN FORMULATING ITS AID PROGRAM FOR LEBANON. HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR OUR ESTIMATE OF (A) THE DOLLAR VALUE OF PHYSICAL DESTRUCTION THROUGHOUT LEBANON, PARTICULARLY IN BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND (B) THE AMOUNT OF MONEY WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE CHANNELED INTO LEBANON OVER THE SHORT RUN TO GET THE LEBANESE ECONOMY FUNCTIONING AGAIN.

2. ALIREZA INDICATED THAT HE DOES NOT THINK THAT THE LEBANESE WILL NECESSARILY REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL OF OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE IN ORDER FOR THE ECONOMY TO BEGIN FUNCTIONING SUFFICIENTLY TO MEET THE BASIC NEEDS OF THE LEBANESE PEOPLE. HE SAID THAT INDIVIDUAL LEBANESE HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY WHICH CAN BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE COUNTRY TO BE PUT TO WORK. THE GOL MOREOVER HAS THE CAPACITY TO BORROW LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY AGAINST ITS VERY LARGE GOLD HOLDINGS, HE SAID.

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3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT EMBASSY BEIRUT WILL NOT YET BE IN

A POSITION TO PROVIDE INDEPENDENT OF THE GOL THE INFORMATION
REQUESTED BY ALIREZA. WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE ANY INFOR-
MATION THE DEPARTMENT CAN GIVE US TO PASS ON TO THE SAG
ON THE LEBANESE ECONOMIC SITUATION.
PORTER

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